

Rural Editor's Scrap Book

ONE good thing about this dry era, Mose Cummings says, is that yew don't have a lot of empty beer bottles an' ole soldiers to get rid of when the wife returns from her vacation.

The Girls' Guild are trimmin' up the Baptist Church for the peaches an' cream festival Saturday night. The congregation won't get trimmed till the pastor returns from his vacation.

Our local authority on international diplomacy, Judge Dopey, says that it looks to him as if those Balkan states had better watch their Steppes, an' in the matter of Silesia it looks to him as if one of the powers was tryin' to set 'em up on another ally. Righto, say we.

The ragged fieldin' of our local baseball team seems to need darnin'. A lot of folks have been darnin' 'em all Summer, but it don't do much good. An' the team don't stand very well in stolen bases. Every time a runner goes to steal bases he acts as if the bases belonged to some poor man an' changes his mind.

Why are our porous plasters like a pass for last Sunday's ball game? Because they are good about a week back.—Benighted Drug Store.—Adv.

Danny Graves fell in the reservoir last Sunday with his new pepper an' salt suit on. Danny says he thought the water needed a little seasonin'.

Ans. to an Investor: Yes, we think Fumigated Air Brake ought to be good. It should be easy to protect it with a short stop.

Doc Meadows allows he didn't mind the heat at all durin' the late hot spell. He says he got quite a snifter of home brew aboard an' went home under an illumination of about 400-horsepower. An' the attitude aroun' his household created by his wife has been very cool ever since.

Verbena Hamfat asserts that the heavy tragedians are all het up because the Government is tryin' to put an embargo on diestuff. Don't seem at all right, Verbenay, say we.

Hiram Cornatassell is ding-blowed if he sees any good in these here collegiate courses in intensive farmin'. It don't take no book-learnin' for him to know that an onion is a scentury plant, by heck.

The other day Zeb Turner, the flagman on the way freight, took a short cut through Caleb Plew's back pasture lot. He had his red flag tucked coquettishly under his arm an' this upset the aesthetic taste of a member of the bovine family of the male persuasion which was occupyin' the lot unbeknownst to Zeb. Said member of the sterner bovine sex gave Zeb a right smart race to the railroad right of way. Zeb says that's the first time he carried signals for a livestock express. Be more careful when crossin' a co-ed pasture the next time, Zeb, say we.

In Arrears.

FRIEND—This is a nice studio you have. Is the rent high?
Artist—I don't remember.

Encouraging.

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY—If anything should go wrong in this experiment, we and the laboratory with us might be blown sky high. Come closer, gentlemen, so that you may be better able to follow me.

Scant Attendance.

DEACON (anxiously)—I wish that our young minister weren't obliged to preach to such a small congregation.

Bewitching Widow—So do I. Every time he said dearly beloved this morning I felt as if I had received a proposal.

Answer to Correspondent.

PURE SIMP—We know nothing about plans for a pedestrian show following the automobile show. You know yourself that the pedestrian has no show.

No Use for Quinine.

HOWSO—What are you doing for your cold?

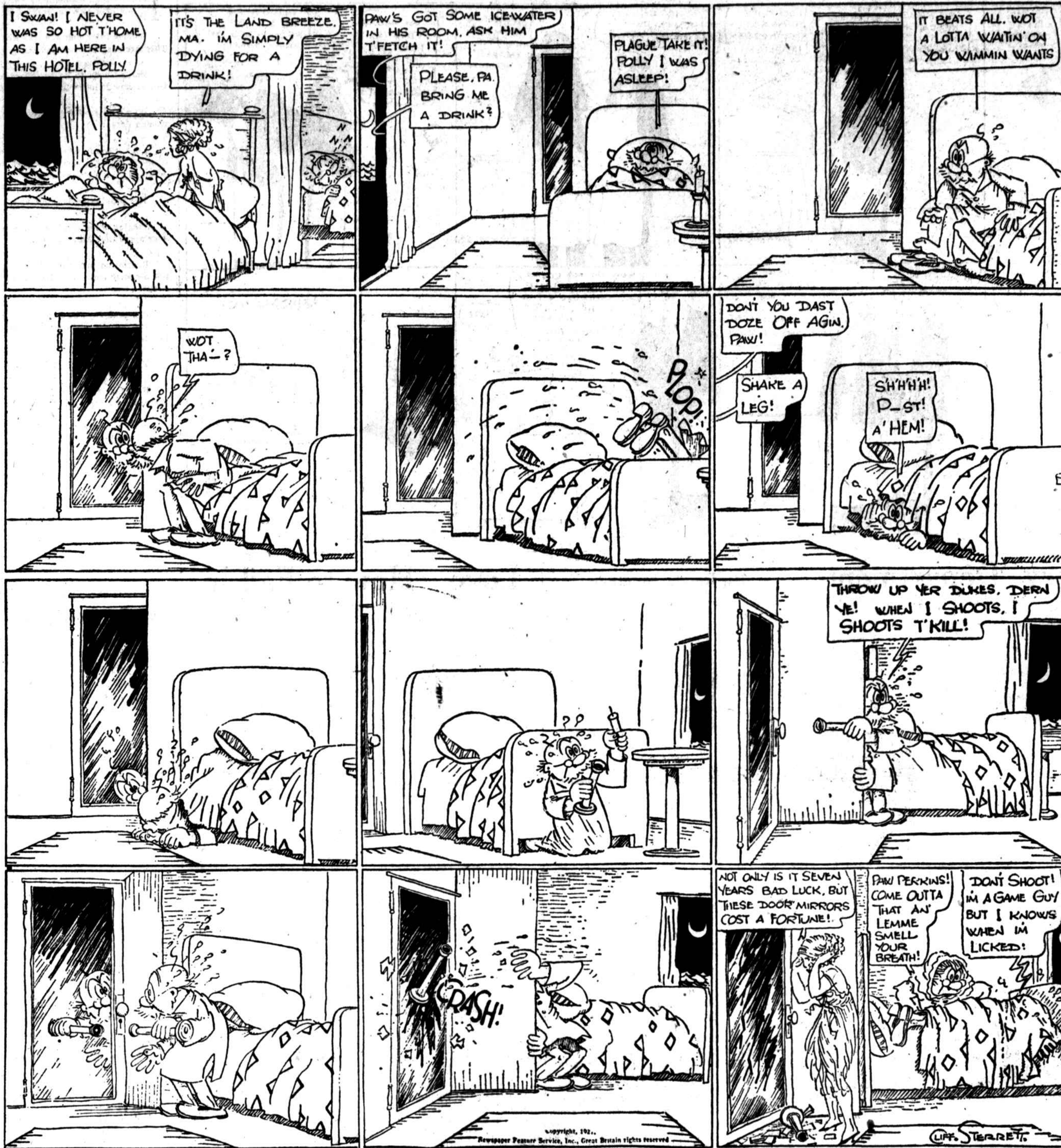
Howso—Taking the open-air treatment. Breathing lots of oxygen during the day.

Howso—What do you breathe at night?

Howso—Nightrogen.

POLLY—"Ice Water" Seems to Have a Strange Effect on Pa By STERRETT

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How to Keep Hens

MR. COOPER, professor of henology, will make this a strictly scientific department on the art of keeping poultry. No other poultry journal ever approached anything like this. If you are going to keep hens be original about it. This is nothing but originality.

Advice to Beginners.

There are, of course, many ways to keep hens, but there is only one way to keep them fresh—and that is alive.

If you live in a city apartment you may keep hens in the refrigerator. But they should be dressed, as it is cold in there.

If you have a yard you should succeed very nicely with your hens. If your neighbors have yards you will be even more successful.

Feed your hens at least twice a day. No one has as yet succeeded in making any profit keeping hens without feeding them.

Selecting the Breeds.

A cold storage hen lays no eggs. A live hen is far more likely to do this. But remember that a setting hen provides no breakfast food.

Some prefer Plymouth Rocks. They ought to be HARDY. Others prefer Wyandottes. If you are wise you will select the following breeds: "Laywell," "Ever Busy," "Willing Workers," "Layerinos" and the like. The paragon for a hen is one egg per diem. There are some hens that lay two or three eggs a day, but so far as actual proof goes they never lay them anywhere except in newspapers.

All roosters and no hens makes a vacant egg basket. All hens and no roosters makes a dull henyard.

For layers get pullets. When a hen becomes real old and henny she is too busy cackling about past performances to help increase the egg census.

The Hen House.

A hen house, or, to be more refined about it, a hen's residence, is quite important. Never buy a lot of hens until you are able to surround

them with a well-lighted, well-ventilated, well-guarded hen house.

The proper hen house is full of little nooks and cozy corners and turns and alcoves and other hiding places. These are important, as they enable the hens to lay for you.

Some people make a big mistake in furnishing a hen house. Do not provide beds for them. Even twin beds are no help in the matter of double-yolked eggs.

A hen, like a policeman, messenger boy and waiter, goes to sleep standing up.

Remember that a hen works sitting down and rests standing up. There should be enough nests in the hen house so that each hen has one. The hen's bedroom, which is a long, smooth pole about three feet from the ground, horizontally, should be about three feet from the longest arm's reach through the hen house windows.

The Care of Hens.

If the weather is extremely cold provide ear muffs for them. This will keep you very busy for a long while, as a hen has no visible ears. But they will appreciate your good intentions.

Even in the dampest weather never equip your hens with rubber boots, else they will think they can break their eggs in the nest and walk around without getting their feet wet.

Always provide a big box of sand. Hens need sand. It certainly takes sand to keep on laying an egg every day and having someone hovering nearby to grab it with an exultant yell and dash out and exchange it for an automobile or something.

How to Make Hens Lay.

This is important. In fact, one of the noblest—and rarest—of a hen's deeds is to crawl off into a lonesome nest and provide the crowning glory of a slice of toast.

Wire your hen house for electricity. Put in the strongest lights possible. Just outside the windows put some lights with pink bulbs. The

By Hen Cooper

modus operandi and also the way it works are as simple as a censored war dispatch. About 1 a. m. each morning get up and switch on the pink lights. The roosters will see these and, thinking it is dawn, begin to crow. A rooster always crows about the work the hens do. Then switch on the bright lights in the hen house. Pretty soon, thinking it is day, the hens will climb into their nests and lay eggs. Then slowly switch out light after light. The hens will think night is coming again and they'll climb back on their roosts and go to sleep. In this manner you double your profits, or losses, as the case may be.

A less expensive way to make hens lay, and one that was never known to fail, is to tie their legs together.

They're simply got to lay then.

Of course, the longest and steadiest and coolest layers are cold storage hens.

Feeding the Hens.

Elsewhere I have made brief mention that hens must be fed. Please take this seriously. It is no joke.

It is no joke either way. If you do not feed them it is no joke for the hens. If you do feed them it is no joke when the grain bills come in.

A hen will eat almost anything. That's the great trouble—a hen has scarcely any more brains when dining than a human has at a banquet. Nine-tenths of the things a hen will eat are not good for her. The tenth is very expensive.

Hens are very fond of liver, sirloin steak, fresh fish, pate de foie gras, caviar, fruit cake, fresh oysters, lobster salad, hothouse lettuce, etc.

If any of your folks keep hens and begin to feed them on that diet go out and board with the hens.

The subject of poultry-keeping has been touched very lightly thus far, although it is a most touching subject. This little chat is designed to interest you in the poultry business. Next week we will go into details about making a hen yard, building a hen house and learning the psychology of hens.

Daffy Definitions

A NATOMY—Place where a goat lives.
ARTIST—Person who loves art for art's sake, but not work for work's sake.
BIRTHDAY—The day on which you try to forget how old you are.
BROKER—Man who helps you to go broke.
CAN-OPENER—Ford repair kit.
CAT—Any member of a woman's club not present.
CONGRESSMAN—The Topsy of Topsy-Turvy Legislators.
CRITIC—Man whose principal fault is finding fault.
DECKHAND—Man who is handy with deck of cards.
DIRTY—Synonym for politics.
EGG—An article of defense, when new, and offense, when old.
FIDDLE—An exclamation of disgust.
FISHING—Practical course in lying.
FORD—A push-cart on four wheels.
GENIUS—Man with remarkable talent for avoiding work.
INSECT—Any man who has done something his wife doesn't like.
JAZZ—Hard-boiled music.
JUDGE—Man selected by the commonwealth to prove that Justice is blind.
LABORER—A man without work.
LIFE-SAVER—A drink of whiskey.
MAGAZINE—A publication containing old stories by new writers.
MALTREAT—To treat with malt.
MILLIONAIRE—Man with two or more wives.
MITTEN—Something your best girl hands you, after removing it so you can slip a diamond ring on.
MORMON—Man who likes trouble and marries a lot of it.
MOTHER-IN-LAW—Trainer of filly in Life's Handicap.
MOVING-PICTURE—Where everybody gets in wrong, including the audience.
MUSH—The language of sweethearts.
MUSICIAN—Person with a temperament who causes everyone else to have a temper.
NEWSPAPER—An advertising circular.
PHYSICIAN—Non-union bartender.
PIANIST—A person whose work is all play.
POLICEMAN—Man who protects you from everything but the law.
POPULARITY—Enjoyable experience of any man with money.
ROUGHAGE—The age in which we now live.
SHIPPING-BOARD—(Owing to the nature of this word we omit definition here, leaving it to its proper place—Profane History.)
SHOES—Footwear for man, beast or auto.
SKIRT—An article of dress that is rapidly disappearing.
SMILE—Camouflage to conceal your real feeling.
SPIDER—A kitchen utensil used in restaurants and receiving a bath each time the place changes ownership.
VAUDEVILLE HOUSE—Theatre devoted to the rendition of "Eli, Eli."
WATER—Fluid formerly used for bathing.
WEDDING—Where man subtracts himself and leaves nothing.
WOOD ALCOHOL—Used frequently as a bath, but only once as a beverage.

A Felicitous Deficit.

CALLER—How much for a marriage license?
Town Clerk—One dollar.
Caller—I've only got fifty cents.
Town Clerk—You're lucky.

Safety First.

IN a certain village down South there was a physician noted for his reckless automobile driving. One day when he answered the telephone a woman's voice asked him if he were going out driving that afternoon.

"No; I hardly think I will have time this afternoon," replied the doctor. "But why do you ask?"

"Well," replied his anonymous questioner, "I want to send my little daughter down town for some thread, if you are not."

A Sure Way.

A YOUNG woman who thought she was losing her husband's affection went to a seventh daughter of a seventh daughter for a love powder. The mystery woman told her:

"Get a raw piece of beef, cut flat, about an inch thick. Slice an onion in two and rub the meat on both sides with it. Put on pepper and salt and toast it on each side over a red coal fire. Drop on it three lumps of butter and two sprigs of parsley and get him to eat it."

The young wife did so and her husband loved her ever after.